

The most visible and valuable conservation area in Bedford owes its popularity to the park-like setting with trails around a 12-acre pond, 2-acre lawn and 25-acre forest purchased in 1979 with State Self-Help funding. Its interesting [history](#) as a mineral springs health resort and early pharmaceutical center reminds the visitor that the lake has been a scenic and restorative attraction for over a century. Traces of the old mineral springs remain, but present use is more likely to be fishing, ice-skating or strolling around the shore. Native vegetation predominates, and the shore is one of the best places in Bedford to see mountain laurel. Also scattered throughout the site are grand examples of former landscaping, such as Japanese maple, magnolia, wisteria and rhododendron.

Improvements continue to be sponsored at Fawn Lake. In 1995 the Commission received a State grant for an improved trail and new [brochure](#). In association with this project, the Commission established interpretive trail stations and installed a new entrance sign. In a related volunteer project, the Bedford Rotary Club extended the improved trail to the parking areas. Parking is available on Sweetwater Avenue or the railroad bed.

Restoration of Fawn Lake. The Commission's greatest conservation management challenge in town is a solution to the gradual eutrophication of Fawn Lake. This has been the subject of extensive study, with a final program and schedule still to be developed. Because the lake is already so shallow, restoration must include removal of sediments as well as the root systems of aquatic plants. The restoration project has been [phased](#) to accommodate the magnitude of both the costs and

[permitting](#)

effort that will ultimately be involved if the town elects to proceed with the full project. The 1998 Spring Annual Town Meeting approved \$50,000 towards the costs of hiring a consultant, finishing the engineering and design work, preparing the permit applications, and conducting potentially numerous meetings with both the state and federal regulators and Bedford officials and residents. There will be significant opportunity for public participation along the way to discuss alternates. Until the many required permits are actually obtained, the project remains conceptual, and final costs cannot be determined. This web site is one of the ways the Commission will attempt to keep you up-to-date on the status of the project. We welcome your comments and participation.